

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT
OPEN HOUSE - PUBLIC INVITED

A proposed abandoned mine reclamation project that would seal 283 open abandoned mines in the Star Mountain Range southwest of Milford in Beaver County will be discussed at an open house at the Milford Municipal Building, 26 South 100 West, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2006. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is proposing to conduct the reclamation project in the late summer and fall of 2006.

"This project will eliminate hazards to the public by preventing entry to dangerous abandoned mines," said Mark Mesch, administrator of the Abandoned Mine Program. "These mines look inviting, and are even advertised by some guide outfits as exciting adventures to explore, but nothing could be further from the truth." Abandoned mines often have hidden hazards such as sudden vertical drop-offs, lack of oxygen or toxic gases, and the possibility of collapsing roofs and unstable sides. "Citizens who enter them are being foolhardy," continued Mesch. "Our message is Stay Out and Stay Alive – we are closing these mines as fast as we can but people need to know that they are not safe to enter."

The Star Range saw extensive hard rock mining activity beginning in the late 1800's and some small-scale limited mining claims have been worked to the present. Mined minerals in the area include copper, lead, zinc, turquoise, silver and gold.

The public is invited to attend the open house to learn more about the project. For more information contact Mark Mesch or Tony Gallegos at the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, P.O. Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114, or telephone (801) 538-5340. Information is also available at the division's website at <http://www.ogm.utah.gov/amr/default.htm>.

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